

RECEIVED
FEDERAL ELECTION
COMMISSION

MUR # 7000

RESPONDANT

Ron DeSantis for Florida
PO BOX 1425
Ponte Vedra Beach, FL 32004

2016 JAN 14 PM 1:35

COMPLAINANT

Nicholas Carper
Pinellas Park, FL 33782

COMPLAINT

OFFICE OF GENERAL COUNSEL

Complainant files this complaint against the Ron DeSantis for U.S. Senate Campaign (Ron DeSantis for Florida, Treasurer Timothy A Koch) for violating Federal Elections Commission requirements mandating that campaigns disclose all contributions and expenditures made in the process of influencing an election.

FACTS

On November 18, 2015, political news website Politico reported (attached) that Congressman DeSantis's Senate Campaign had been giving away copies of his book to voters at events. However, none of the campaign's reports of contributions and expenditures up to that time report the books as contributions to the campaign, as is required by law. A DeSantis campaign consultant, Barney Keller, was quoted on record acknowledging that the campaign had in fact given away the books but had no justification for their absence on the campaign's financial filings. By FEC guidelines, "anything of value given to influence a Federal election is considered a contribution" and would thereby have to be reported. As these books are items of value and were given out by the campaign, their absence on Mr. DeSantis's filings constitutes a violation.

Attached: Article with quote from Mr. Keller

Attached: Social media photos from voters receiving the books from DeSantis Campaign

REQUESTED ACTION

As shown above, Mr. DeSantis has violated FEC requirements in failing to disclose in required campaign finance reports the value of the books his campaign gave away at events. As these books are items of value that are being used by the campaign in the process of influencing a federal election, I respectfully ask that the Commission investigate this violation, and the respondents be fined the maximum amount permitted under the law.

Sincerely,

Nicholas V Carper

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN to before me this 12th day of January, 2016

Darlene Sumbry

Notary Public

My Commission Expires:

September 23, 2016



DARLENE SUMBRY
MY COMMISSION # EE 837216
EXPIRES: September 23, 2016
Bonded Thru Budget Notary Services



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POLITICO Florida

PRO

DeSantis books used as promotional giveaway not in campaign filings



Ron DeSantis. (AP Photo/J. Scott Applewhite)



By DANIEL DUCASSI 5:56 a.m. | Nov. 18, 2015

TALLAHASSEE - Republican congressman Ron DeSantis has been handing out his book, *Dreams from Our Founding Fathers: First Principles in the Age of Obama*, to supporters at events for his campaign to fill the U.S. Senate seat left open by Marco Rubio.

At the Republican Party of Florida's Sunshine Summit in Orlando over the weekend, stacks of his books sat on a table for his campaign behind a brochure that reads "Veteran. Principled Leader. Taxpayer Hero."

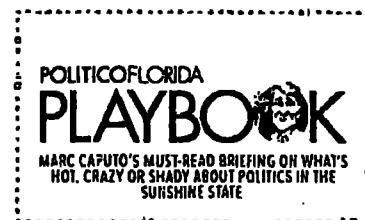
But the books DeSantis' campaign is giving away are not accounted for in finance reports filed with the Federal Election Commission.

The FEC's website states that "anything of value given to influence a Federal election is considered a contribution" that an official would have to report.

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“Congressman DeSantis personally purchased a number of royalty-free books that the Senate campaign is giving away to supporters in a manner consistent with FEC regulations,” wrote Barney Keller, a Desantis consultant, in a text message response to a question from POLITICO Florida about how the books were purchased.

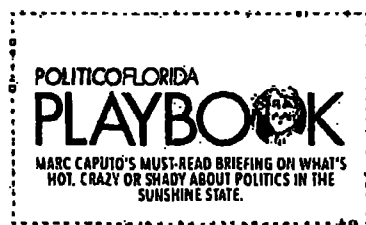


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Keller did not respond to questions about DeSantis' FEC filings lacking any mention of the books, or to requests for further explanation about why he believed the arrangement is in compliance with FEC regulations.

DeSantis published the book in 2011, the year before the Ponte Vedra Beach Harvard Law School graduate was elected to Congress at the

age of 34.

He used the publishing company High-Pitched Hum, which helps authors prepare their manuscripts while the author pays the cost of publication and printing, according to its website. The contract lasts one year, at which point the author pays the company an agreed upon price per book and the rights go back to the author.

It's unclear how many of his own books DeSantis purchased, or how many he has given to the campaign. There is no record of the campaign receiving the books in the more than \$1.8 million in individual contributions to his campaign.

In the G.O.P primary, DeSantis is running against U.S. Rep. David Jolly, Lt. Gov. Carlos López-Cantera and businessman Todd Wilcox.

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Author: DANIEL DUCASSI

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